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APPLICATION NO	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO	CONFIRMATION NO
09 881,375	06 14 2001	Tsuyoshi Fukuda	B422-162	6884

26272 7590 01 15 2003

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, MICHELLE P

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2851

DATE MAILED: 01 15 2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/881,375

Applicant(s)

FUKUDA, TSUYOSHI

Examiner

Michelle Nguyen

Art Unit

2851

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 December 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2 and 8-11 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 14 June 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1 and 3-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,828,919 to Furuya et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,393,224 to Stern et al.

With regard to claim 1, Furuya et al. disclose a camera comprising:

a front chassis (body plate 41) which forms a front portion of a main body of the camera (see Fig. 9);

a rear chassis (combined camera body 44 and camera body 54) which forms a rear portion of the main body of the camera and is coupled to the body plate 41 (see Col. 9, lines 19-23, Figs. 8-10);

a lens mount (lens barrel 2) (see Col. 2, line 66 to Col. 3, line 2, Fig. 9);

an image taking device (film) disposed between the body plate 41 and the camera body 54 (see Col. 6, lines 28-35);

a mirror unit (mirror 43x) disposed between the lens barrel 2 and the film (see Figs. 8, 9); and

a central main body member (mirror box 43) on which the lens barrel 2 (via the body plate 41) and the film (via the camera body 44) are mounted and which is coupled to at least one of the body plate 41 and the camera body 44 (see Fig. 9).

Furuya et al. do not teach the film to be designed to photoelectrically convert light received. However, Stern et al. teach replacing a conventional film cartridge with an e-film cartridge designed to photoelectrically convert light received for converting a conventional camera to an electronic imaging camera (see Col. 1, lines 14-7, Col. 5, lines 35-54, Fig. 1). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to replace the conventional film of Furuya et al. with the e-film of Stern et al. for converting the conventional camera to an electronic imaging camera, and thereby enhancing the capabilities of the camera.

With regard to claim 3, Furuya et al. teach the camera as discussed above with respect to claim 1 to further comprise coupling members (screws 43a-43h, bosses 44c-44f) for coupling the body plate 41 and the camera body 44 to each other (see Fig. 9).

With regard to claim 4, Furuya et al. teach the screws 43a-43h as discussed above with respect to claim 3 to be arranged on both sides of the mirror box 43 (see Fig. 9).

With regard to claim 5, Furuya et al. teach the camera as discussed above with respect to claim 1 to further comprise:

a finder optical device (viewfinder unit 49) mounted on the mirror box 43 (see Col. 6, lines 3-4, Col. 8, lines 43-8, Fig. 7);

wherein the mirror 43x reflects an object light beam and guides the object light beam to the viewfinder unit 49 (see Col. 6, lines 3-7).

With regard to claim 6, Furuya et al. teach the viewfinder unit 49 as discussed above with respect to claim 5 to include a focal plate (focusing screen) serving as an imaging plane for the object light beam reflected by the mirror 43x (see Fig. 6, lines 3-7).

With regard to claim 7, Furuya et al. teach the camera as discussed above with respect to claim 5 to further comprise a focus detection device (auto-focus sensor unit 51) which is mounted on the mirror box 43 and performs focus detection by using the object light beam from the mirror 43x (see Col. 6, lines 1-2, Col. 7, lines 3-4, Fig. 7).

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 2 and 8-11 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

4. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

With regard to claim 2, the prior art does not teach the central main body member of a camera to be fixed to only the front chassis of a front and rear chassis in combination with all other limitations set forth in the claim.

With regard to claim 8, the prior art does not teach the front and rear chassis of a camera to comprise metal parts in combination with all other limitations set forth in the claim.

Claims 9 and 10 include all limitations set forth in claim 8.

With regard to claim 11, the prior art does not teach the casing member of a camera, on which an accessory mount portion on which accessories can be detachably mounted is fixed, to be supported by a reinforcing metal member mounted on at least one of a front chassis and a rear chassis in combination with all other limitations set forth in the claim.

Conclusion

5. The following prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

U.S. Patent No. 6,324,348 to Terada

U.S. Patent No. 6,126,334 to Ohmori

U.S. Patent No. 5,659,825 to Dobashi

U.S. Patent No. 5,592,221 to Mielke

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michelle Nguyen whose telephone number is 703-305-2771. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30am-5:00pm.

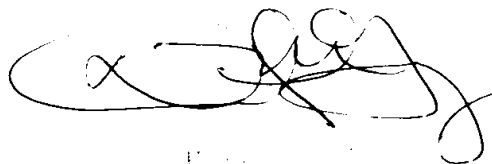
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Russ Adams can be reached on 703-308-2847. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9318 for regular communications and 703-872-9319 for After Final communications.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-4900.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J. L. Smith", written over a faint, illegible stamp.

mpn
January 12, 2003